

What is claimed is:

1. An image processing method for carrying out image processing on an interimage-difference image obtained by subjecting two desired images from among two or more images taken  
5 of the same subject to interimage processing and which represents the substantial difference between said two images, wherein said image processing carried out on said interimage-difference image is image processing by which the substantial difference between said two images represented  
10 therein is enhanced relative to artifacts arising due to misalignment of structural positions contained within said two images.  
2. An image processing method as defined in claim 1, wherein said image processing comprises suppressing said artifacts  
15 relative to the substantial difference between said two images.  
3. An image processing method as defined in claim 2, wherein control of said artifacts relative to the substantial difference between said two images comprises performance of image processing based on a morphology process utilizing structural  
20 elements larger than said artifacts and smaller than said substantial difference.  
4. An image processing method as defined in claim 1, wherein said image processing comprises emphasizing the substantial difference between said two images relative to the  
25 artifacts.  
5. An image processing method as defined in claim 1, 2,

or 4, wherein

said interimage processing comprises subtraction of corresponding structural positions within said two images.

6. An image processing method as defined in claim 3 wherein

5 said interimage processing comprises subtraction of corresponding structural positions within said two images.

7. An image processing method as defined in claim 1, 2, or 4, wherein

10 said two images are radiation images taken of the same subject at different points in time in a time series manner.

8. An image processing method as defined in claim 3, wherein said two images are radiation images taken of the same subject at different points in time in a time series manner.

15 9. An image processing method as defined in claim 5, wherein said two images are radiation images taken of the same subject at different points in time in a time series manner.

20 10. An image processing apparatus including image processing means for performing image processing procedures on an interimage-difference image obtained by subjecting two desired images from among two or more images taken of the same subject to interimage processing and which represents the substantial difference between said two images, wherein

25 said image processing means carries out image processing on said interimage-difference image by which the substantial difference between said two images represented therein is enhanced relative to artifacts arising due to misalignment of structural

positions contained within said two images.

11. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 10,  
wherein

said image processing procedure comprises controlling said  
5 artifacts relative to the substantial difference between said  
two images.

12. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 11,  
wherein

said image processing procedure comprises controlling said  
10 artifacts relative to the substantial difference between said  
two images by applying image processing based on a morphology  
process utilizing structural elements larger than said artifacts  
and smaller than said substantial difference.

13. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 10,  
15 wherein

said image processing procedure comprises emphasizing the  
substantial difference between said two images relative to the  
artifacts.

14. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 10,  
20 11, 12, or 13 wherein

said interimage processing procedure comprises  
subtraction of corresponding structural positions within said  
two images.

15. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 10,  
25 11, 12, or 13, wherein

said two images are radiation images taken of the same

subject at different points in time in a time series manner.

16. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 14,  
wherein

said two images are radiation images taken of the same  
5 subject at different points in time in a time series manner.